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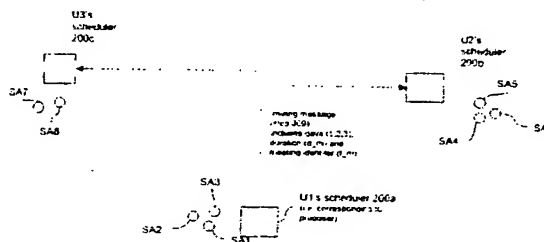
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(54) Title: DISTRIBUTED SCHEDULING



(57) **Abstract:** The invention concerns the scheduling of activities that involve a plurality of distributed resources, such as scheduling meetings that involve a plurality of attendees or scheduling processor activity, where the processors are arranged to control devices and/or other processors. In each of these examples, the resources communicate with one another to identify times at which the actions and/or activities can be scheduled to occur. In the context of scheduling meetings, the invention is embodied in a method of selecting a time for an event, where the event involves a plurality of resources. A process is performed in respect of each resource. The process involves identifying a slot time corresponding to a time at which the resource is available and creating a software component corresponding to the identified slot. The software component comprises communicating means arranged to communicate with other like software components, and storage arranged to store data in respect of the resource corresponding to the software component and data in respect of the identified slot time. Each software component so created communicates with another like software component in order to identify a time for the event that satisfies a predetermined criterion. In the context of scheduling processing events, the invention is embodied in a method of distributing a plurality of tasks between a plurality of resources. Here, a process is performed in respect of each resource. This process comprises identifying a processing capability of the resource and creating a software component corresponding to the identified capability. The software component comprises communicating means arranged to communicate with other like software components, and storage arranged to store data (including the identified capability) in respect of the resource corresponding to the software component. Each software component so created communicates with another like software component in order to identify distribution of tasks that satisfies a predetermined criterion.

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